

**d) Remarks**

Claims 1-8, 11-18 and 21-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 8, 21 and 23 are independent.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to Claims 22. Pursuant to this indication, Applicant has rewritten Claim 22 in independent form including all the limitations of the former base claim (Claim 21). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 22 is now in condition for immediate allowance.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-8, 18, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Lu U.S. Patent 5,444,958 ("Lu"). The rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

Independent Claims 1, 8 and 23 have been amended to clarify that the clamp members each include a single mating surface to be in contact with the at least one mating surface of the housing. As seen in FIG. 2 of the specification, each clamp member 104a,104b includes a single mating surface 122 in contact with a housing surface 120. By contrast, Lu discloses clamp members 71,72 including multiple mating surfaces to be in contact with mating surfaces of the housing. More particularly, as best seen in Figure 7 of Lu, each clamp member 71,72 includes a plurality of ribs 716,717 that are compressed tightly against corresponding ribs 131,132 of the housing such that each clamp member includes multiple surfaces in contact with the housing (Col. 5, lines 38-45). In view of the above, the rejection of Claims 1, 8 and 23, and Claims 2-4 which depend from Claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b), has been traversed

Independent Claim 5 recites a rail system for securing a pane, wherein the pane 101 defines a first plane. Claim 5 further recites a nut 108 that is threadably engaged with a screw 106 to drive a pair of clamp members 104a,104b in a direction along the first plane in order to generate a clamping force between the clamp members. Lu does not teach a screw and nut

combination that drives a pair of clamp members in direction along a plane defines by the pane. The Office Action states that Lu teaches a screw 714 and a nut 715 threadably engaged with the screw. However, as disclosed by Lu, the screw and nut are used to move the clamp members 71,72 directly toward each other as opposed to moving the clamp members 71,72 in a plane defined by pane 1. In view of the above, the rejection of Claim 5 and Claims 6, 7 and 11-18 which depend from Claim 5, under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b), has been traversed

Independent Claim 21 has been amended to clarify that the nut strip 108 is disposed substantially between the clamp members 104a,104b. By contrast, Lu teaches a nut strip 20 that is clearly not disposed between clamp members 71,72 (see FIGS. 6 and 7). In view of the above, the rejection of Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b), has been traversed.

In the Office Action, Claims 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Lu in view of Boeckx. The rejection is respectfully traversed as follows. Lu is distinguished from these claims for the reasons noted above with respect to Claim 5. Boeckx fails to cure the deficiencies of Lu. Accordingly, the rejection of Claims 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been traversed.

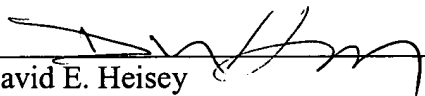
**Conclusion**

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection has been traversed as to the independent claims and all claims depending from them, and that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss remaining issues, if there are any.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-2298 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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